FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 066 *4 April 1979*

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Trade With EEC Promoted in Honduras Meeting A 1
COMUNBANA Official on Banana Marketing Situation A 1

ARGENTINA

Videla Discusses Nuclear Program, Other Issues in Neuquen B 1
Bids Presented for Atucha Plant; Castro Madero Speaks B 1
TELAM Assesses Impact of Harrisburg Nuclear Mishap B 3
Envoy to Vatican Warns Against 'False Expectations' B 3
Former Naval Commander Interviewed in Beijing B 4

BOLIVIA

Padilla Discusses Progress Toward Democratization C 1
[Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET 28 Mar]
Foreign Minister Comments on Relations With Chile C 2

BRAZIL

FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt Arrives on Official Visit D 1
Schmidt Arrival D 1
Figueiredo Pledge on Nuclear Pact D 1
Schmidt, Figueiredo Remarks D 2
Figueiredo Interview D 2
Officials Comment on Implications of Harrisburg Accident D 3
Government Concern D 3
Incident 'Insignificant' D 3
'Drastic Review' D 3
Commerce Minister Discusses New Economic Guidelines D 4
Teachers Go On Strike in Rio Grande do Sul D 4
Marcondes Filho Named 1st Army Commander D 4

COLOMBIA

Congress Examines Somoza Business Transactions F 1
Attorney General Denies Charges of Torture F 1
3 Guerrillas Die in Clash With Army Troops F 1
New Cultural Agreement Discussed With USSR F 2
Trade Exchange Talks Concluded With GDR [EL SIGLO 29 Mar] F 2

PARAGUAY

Government Wants To Reduce Area To Be Flooded by Yacyreta H 1
[ULTIMA HORA 2 Apr]
Stroessner Reportedly Seeks Meeting With Videla H 1
[CLARIN 2 Apr]
Paraguayan Reaction [ABC COLOR 3 Apr] H 2

PERU

Government Approves New Draft Constitution J 1
Foreign Minister on Arms Purchases, Botelho Visit J 1
[EL COMERCIO 23 Mar]

VENEZUELA

Herrera Campins Answers Criticism During Interview L 1
[EL NACIONAL 29 Mar]
MEP Seeks Corruption Indictment Against Perez L 2
Briefs: New CVG Board L 2

PANAMA

Canal Treaties Suffer 'Another Setback' N 1
Christian Democrat Comments on Military Aid Suspension N 1
Liberal Party Decides to Register, Appoints Commission N 2
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 28 Mar]
Agrarian Labor Party Denies Participation in FRENO N 3
[LA REPUBLICA 30 Mar]
Lewis Galindo Sues Two Newsmen for Slander N 3
[STAR AND HERALD 3 Apr]

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Proceedings Against Captured Trawler Begin P 1

EL SALVADOR

Recent Armed Clashes Leave Several Dead P 1

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua To Join Nonalined After Liberation [Havana] P 1
Opposition Group of 12 Issues First Manifesto P 2
Wave of Violence Continues Throughout Country P 3
Youths Occupy OAS Offices; High School Students Call Strike P 3
Further Details P 4
2 Dead, Several Arrested as Sandinists Increase Action P 5

CUBA

Cuban Media Report on Harrisburg Nuclear Reactor Incident Q 1
Venceremos Brigade Arrives From United States Q 1
Pedro Miret Attends Italian Communist Party Congress Q 1
Perez Meets With Romania's Ceausescu in Bucharest Q 2
Havana Radio Interviews Vietnamese Ambassador Q 2

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Guzman Calls Energy Situation 'Extremely Difficult' R 1
Visiting Costa Rican Vice President Holds News Conference R 1
Revolutionary Party Voids Expulsions, Dismissals R 2
Revolutionary Party Funding Sandinist Struggle R 2
Police Protect Radio Stations Against Haitian Exiles R 2

CARIBBEAN

GRENADA

Bishop Announces New Supreme Court, Other Actions S 1
[Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN 28 Mar]
Commonwealth Secretary General Comments on Grenada, Caribbean S 1
Unity, Human Rights S 1
Help for Grenada S 2
[Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS 29 Mar]

JAMAICA

Manley Discusses Moscow Trip, Economic Matters S 3
[DAILY GLEANER 24 Mar]
Manley Responds to DAILY GLEANER Criticism S 3
[DAILY GLEANER 30 Mar]

TRADE WITH EEC PROMOTED IN HONDURAS MEETING

PA031920 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 3 Apr 79 PA

[Text] A meeting was held recently in Honduras between export promotion organizations of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic and EEC foreign trade representatives. The meeting was held to review policy and accomplishments up to now regarding promotion of exports to Europe and setting forth action programs for the next few years with a view to increasing exports. EEC foreign trade officials and export promotion officials from Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic drafted a document suggesting improved EEC information in order to achieve rapprochement between European markets and Central American, Panamanian and Dominican markets. A joint program was also outlined between the export promotion officials and the European trade officials to expand exports to Europe.

COMUNBANA OFFICIAL ON BANANA MARKETING SITUATION

PA301923 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Mar 79 PA

[Eleida Martinez report]

[Excerpt] The selection of the new executive director of the multinational Banana Marketing Corporation [COMUNBANA]--on which there is something of a consensus on the selection of Gerardo Gonzalez Vernaza--a report on the 1978 worldwide banana situation, and the 11th meeting of the General Council of the Union of Banana Exporting Countries [UPEB] are three points on the agenda of the conference of UPEB executives at UPEB and COMUNBANA headquarters in the Bank of America building, Panama City. The conference is being attended by the four member countries. We believe that one of the subjects of the agenda is very important. It is the report on the 1978 worldwide banana situation and the outlook for marketing of the fruit in 1979. We will interview Dr Hernan Vallejo Mejia, acting COMUNBANA executive director, regarding this point:

[Begin recording] [Vallejo Mejia] According to our figures, the banana situation in 1978 showed a balance in supply and demand but with a somewhat greater supply than demand. This has begun to be observed, and it might have an unfavorable effect on prices. We see that this could become more acute in 1979. My duty as UPEB executive director is naturally to alert the member countries and producers about a slight excess of supply over demand.

[Question] What measures will be adopted to counteract this situation?

[Answer] On the part of COMUNBANA, we will try to overcome any excess of supply through new markets. On the part of UPEB, we would like to have the governments of the member countries meet to adopt measures in the coming months to prevent a new banana crisis.

[Question] What can you report regarding the export of the fruit to new markets and the traditional ones of Eastern Europe and Greece?

[Answer] We foresee that demand can be maintained at last year's levels with slight increases. Of course, we are talking about traditional markets. We are also trying to study the possible effects of the increase in fuel prices. The effects of the increase in oil prices can result directly in higher shipping rates and, indirectly and more in the long term, on the consumption capacity in the importing countries. [end recording]

VIDELA DISCUSSES NUCLEAR PROGRAM, OTHER ISSUES IN NEUQUEN

PY031644 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2350 GMT 2 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] Neuquen, 2 Apr (NA)--President Jorge Videla confirmed here today the government's decision to install a heavy water plant in Neuquen within the framework of the nuclear plan. He also announced that the provincial budget will be increased by 2 billion to 2.5 billion pesos. Videla made these announcements during a work meeting he held this morning at government house with the provincial officials headed by Governor Domingo Manuel Trimarco on the first day of his 48-hour official visit to Neuquen.

In reply to a question by officials of the Neuquen Government of the installation of a heavy water plant in the province, the president stated that the original plans formulated by the National Atomic Energy Commission for the implementation of this project will be maintained.

Since 1530 this afternoon, the president has been meeting with representatives of the various sectors of the community, and the remarks he made in the presence of 18 youths from Neuquen Province should be emphasized. Among other things, the president said: "We do not want either a totalitarian or police state which would gag the media because they not only provide information, but also train the community."

He also reaffirmed that "the ultimate objective of the national reorganization process is to establish a representative, federalist democracy--that is, a real federalism, not just the mere expression of a desire." The meeting, which was held in the Treaty Room of government house, lasted more than an hour. Commenting on national sovereignty, the president said: "The country has gone through an emergency and performed well in the test. The country remained united during that test."

He also added that "a well-integrated Argentina cannot be achieved either by government order or propaganda," but through the people's feelings toward a common problem. He also announced that "a medium-term border development plan is now underway."

He emphasized the economic aspect of federalism, pointing out that the reorganization of the tax system will allow the provinces to utilize funds which, although collected by the provinces in the past, were distributed by the federal government. He also emphasized the secondary role of the state in the country's various activities, noting that "the state should do no more than what is necessary."

Regarding inflation, the president said: "The country has been overpowered by the state's paternalism. We Argentines have become accustomed to living with inflation: The blame for this can be charged in part to the state and in part to individuals who were unable to overcome the temptation posed by speculation."

BIDS PRESENTED FOR ATUCHA PLANT; CASTRO MADERO SPEAKS

PY032108 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1530 GMT 3 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr (NA)--Five enterprises of different nationalities presented bids today for the construction of Argentina's third nuclear central which will be located near Atucha, approximately 100 km from the capital and near the first Latin American nuclear powerplant.

The new plant "cannot be designed or built without first implementing all security measures and devices which could be possibly demanded," said the president of the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), Rear Adm Castro Madero, when speaking today during the opening of bids for the nuclear plant and the heavy water plant which will free Argentina from foreign dependency for the supply of this basic element for nuclear fission.

The five enterprises which bid today are Canadian, British, German, Italian and Swiss. The ceremony was attended by, among others, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary for International Economic Relations Raul Cura and the ambassadors of the countries whose firms participated in the bidding, with the exception of the United Kingdom, which was represented by its charge d'affaires.

The following is the list of bidders for the construction of Atucha II, which became known after the opening of the bids: the ZECL of Canada, which is building the Embalse Rio Tercero nuclear plant; General Electric of the United Kingdom; KWU-Siemes of the FRG; Nira of Italy; and Sulzer of Switzerland.

Speaking during the ceremony, Castro Madero said that "this launches the implementation of the first plan for the country's nuclear development, and positively reasserts the inalienable objective of the national government to carry out an independent nuclear development."

He added that "this plan reflects peaceful intentions, the decision to step up the nation's scientific, technical and industrial efforts and a generous spirit of international cooperation, especially toward Latin America."

He emphasized that "Argentina's nuclear plan is evolving within an uncertain international situation which is constantly changing due to growing restrictions of technological transference, restrictions which, disguised behind the praiseworthy goal of precluding nuclear proliferation, seek to strengthen the nuclear hegemony of a few and further increase the differences between developed and developing countries.

Castro Madero said: "Our country has openly rejected those policies or international instruments which it judges to be discriminatory and harmful to its development," and added, "on the contrary, Argentina favors maximum transference of technology as the best way to prevent nuclear proliferation."

With regard to the international situation, and especially with regard to the accident which occurred on Three Mile Island in the United States, Castro Madero indicated that "the magnitude of the accident is no doubt less than its news impact, which could weaken in some the trust they may have in nuclear energy."

He emphasized that "in the face of the sensational manner and lack of technical basis with which the dissemination of this information has been handled, I believe it necessary to reassert the CNEA's guidelines to the effect that no nuclear plant will be built in the country without first implementing all security measures and devices which could be possibly demanded."

Castro Madero finally indicated that "the current level of technological knowledge in the field of nuclear security allows us to provide full guarantees and assuage fears."

TELAM ASSESSES IMPACT OF HARRISBURG NUCLEAR MISHAP

PY030335 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2255 GMT 2 Apr 79 PY

[Unattributed commentary: "An 'Accidental' Accident?"]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (TELAM)--While an anguished world is focusing its attention on the damaged U.S. nuclear plant in Harrisburg, several usually well-informed observers are beginning to ponder the alleged political exploitation of the accident by those sectors interested in stopping nuclear development in Third World countries, such as Argentina.

In this regard, the appeal made today by Senator Edward Kennedy to all those nations producing nuclear energy to "stop and consider" the risks of this industry was interpreted as a "suggestive" and even a "potentially dangerous" statement.

Although no one doubts that the accident is real, there is also no doubt that the most powerful members of the nuclear club--mainly the United States and the Soviet Union--look askance at certain countries within their traditional "spheres of influence" which promote undertakings that may alter their monopoly in this delicate field.

It is sufficient to note the recent disagreement between the United States and Brazil on the purchase of nuclear material and advanced technology from the FRG despite the fact that the Brazilians--just as the Argentines have done--have officially expressed their intention to use these elements for peaceful purposes.

Senator Kennedy, a fellow party member of President Earl Carter III [as received] and an aspirant for the White House in 1980, elliptically stated (that is disregarding his usually aggressive and direct style) that "undoubtedly the accident--in Harrisburg--will inevitably hinder the development of nuclear energy."

It has also come to the attention of observers that this panic has also had an impact on the scientists at the Rio de Janeiro Federal University who, in addition to describing a somber picture for the Brazilian nuclear development program in terms of security, disclosed that the Angra 1 nuclear reactor "is built on a geological fault and Angra 2 is built on unsolid ground."

Furthermore, these scientists warned that the Brazilian people "lack the slightest notion of nuclear risks" and they criticized the government for concealing these dangers.

Of course, this is certainly not the case in Argentina, where the issue of developing a solid nuclear capacity for peaceful means is widely discussed by the proper authorities. Furthermore, Argentine scientists have shown their high level of capacity in this field, particularly in countries such as Iran. Incidentally, Iran never had to confront a nuclear accident like the one Senator Kennedy is speaking about. Likewise, the United States Government was right in enforcing its human rights policy, but it was also wrong in alining itself with the deposed shah's regime.

ENVOY TO VATICAN WARNS AGAINST 'FALSE EXPECTATIONS'

PY032035 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1440 GMT 3 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr (TELAM)--The Argentine ambassador to the Vatican, Ruben Blanco, today emphasized the need "not to create false expectations that negotiations will begin today or tomorrow on the Beagle issue."

He explained that "there is no such intention. Rather, a work group has arrived to begin operating later, whenever the Vatican decides."

During a telephone conversation with a radio station in this capital, the diplomat stated that "administrative procedures are still being carried out, such as setting up and enlarging the embassy offices so that officials will have room to work, and all this takes several days."

The delegation sent by the Argentine foreign minister which left last Sunday for Rome is comprised of legal adviser Guillermo Moncayo; the president of the second joint commission, Gen Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo (ret); Ambassadors Hortensia Gutierrez Posse and Susana Ruiz Cerrutti; and adviser Pedro Jose Frias.

This delegation, said Blanco, "is already here, but it arrived only yesterday and, naturally, there are prior tasks of an internal nature which it still has to complete."

He also emphasized that "it is an important group of officials, but this delegation does not have the nature of a special mission, nor does it have authority delegated by the Foreign Ministry."

Blanco then stated: "One must clearly read the Foreign Ministry communique dated 31 March which specified the task--an important one, of course--which they will carry out in the future, and not immediately."

Finally, Blanco said he felt honored by the fact that he had been included in the task of cooperating with the delegation sent to the Vatican.

FORMER NAVAL COMMANDER INTERVIEWED IN BEIJING

PY031707 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1136 GMT 3 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr (NA)--Former Commander of the Navy Adm Emilio Massera (ret) has repeated in Beijing that the process for national reorganization "must lead us to a republican, federal, modern and stable democracy." The remark was made at the airport of the PRC capital. According to spokesmen close to the former navy chief, Massera was interviewed yesterday afternoon at the airport just before leaving for New York.

At the airport, Massera again had a talk with PRC Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping, and was then interviewed by the press. Referring to Argentina's democratic future, Massera indicated that it must have as one of its pillars "a press free of fear and unmovable when facing pressures from any sector." Massera will be in New York today and tomorrow for the purpose of meeting with U.S. politicians and businessmen.

PADILLA DISCUSSES PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION

LD031337 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 28 Mar 79 p 7 LD

[Leif Persson undated interview with Bolivian President David Padilla in La Paz: "Democratization--the General's Aim. Rumors of a Coup"]

[Text] La Paz--Bolivia fears a new coup and once again La Paz is buzzing with rumors. The other day a group of high-ranking military officers was allegedly going to attempt to overthrow Gen David Padilla Arancibia.

In an exclusive interview with SVENSKA DAGBLADET, Bolivia's interim president said:

"All rumors of this kind are completely unfounded and only serve to damage the democratization which is in progress."

It was 24 November last year that David Padilla seized power from President Juan Pereda Asbun, who 5 months before that had overthrown Bolivia's longstanding dictator Hugo Banzer Suarez.

There is a saying here in La Paz: "When a cadet enters military high school he has already decided to become president."

Elections 1 July

It was different with Gen David Padilla. He put himself in power only as the interim president. General elections will be held 1 July. On 6 August he will hand power over to the peoples' elected president.

Question: What were your aims and views when you risked another coup in Bolivia?

Answer: The reason was to build a transitional government which would return power to the people through free elections.

Question: What is the difference between your government and the two previous ones?

Answer: I can say that my government has serious intentions of implementing the promised democratization.

Question: What is the most obvious indication that your government is seeking democracy?

"Complete Freedom"

Answer: As you yourself can see, complete freedom prevails in the country and anyone at all can organize any political activity at all.

Question: Is it true that the military have grown tired of politics and are eager to return to their barracks?

Answer: Politics is not a job for the military. The armed forces should be responsible for internal order and external security. Therefore, it is right that we should withdraw from the political scene.

Question: How do you regard Bolivia's democratic situation in relation to the dictatorships of neighboring countries?

Answer: With the exception of Chile, with whom we have no diplomatic relations, we have excellent relations with neighboring countries such as Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil and Peru, and relations are developing in a completely normal way.

Question: What is the most serious problem for democratization?

Answer: The greatest risk is the large number of political parties and the fact that civilians are going to resume power after a long period of absence.

Question: Is there a risk that democratization might be retarded by a new coup?

"No Risk of a Coup"

Answer: The great majority within the armed forces agree that it is necessary to give Bolivia an impetus toward constitutional government. Since a coup can only come from the armed forces there is consequently no risk of a coup.

Question: You say that the elections in July will be the most correct in Bolivia's history. In what way?

Answer: My government will supervise the elections with the greatest honesty and impartiality, which are characteristic of the current administration. An example of this is that the armed forces are not nominating an official candidate for president in the elections.

Question: Do you believe that the transitional government has the people's support?

Answer: I believe that in general the people agree with this government, a government which does not directly seek the people's support. On the other hand, I believe that the people were from the beginning suspicious of the military junta in the belief that it was a matter of another coup. But now we have persuaded everyone of our serious intentions to transform Bolivia into a true democracy.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH CHILE

PY031752 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1209 GMT 3 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr (NA)--Bolivian Foreign Minister Raul Botelho Gosalvez repeated today that his country has "no intention" of resuming relations with Chile until a solution has been found for Bolivian's landlocked situation. He also indicated that he is in favor of asking for Vatican mediation in seeking a solution to the dispute which has been keeping Chile at loggerheads with Peru and Bolivia for the last 100 years. Botelho Gosalvez, who returned to his country this morning after carrying out official business in Argentina and Uruguay and after resting for a few days in this capital, made these remarks at Ezeiza International Airport. The Bolivian official stressed that "the relations with Chile are broken off," denying the possibility that his country would attempt a rapprochement in order to seek a resumption of relations prior to a solution to the dispute which exists between the two countries over Bolivia's lack of an outlet to the Pacific Ocean. Referring to aspects of his country's internal policy, he remarked that at the present time "there is no political (?censorship) in Bolivia," and there is complete freedom of expression.

FRG CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

Schmidt Arrival

PY032131 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2105 GMT 3 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 3 Apr (LATIN)--The head of the FRG Government, Helmut Schmidt, arrived in this capital at 1721 (2021 GMT) on a 5-day official visit to Brazil. Schmidt and his delegation were received at the military airbase by Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, diplomatic officials, ministers and representatives of the FRG Embassy here.

Figueiredo Pledge on Nuclear Pact

PY032353 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2232 GMT 3 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 3 Apr (LATIN)--President Joao Baptista Figueiredo tonight, shortly after the arrival of Helmut Schmidt, head of the FRG Government, gave assurances that Brazil is willing to comply with the nuclear agreement signed with the FRG. The German official arrived in this capital 20 minutes late and began the first visit of an FRG chief of state to Latin America, a visit which will include Peru and the Dominican Republic.

During the official reception given for Schmidt by Figueiredo, the Brazilian president reiterated that his country "is ready to insure the normal execution of our nuclear agreement." The Brazilian president said: "I reaffirm our position to fulfill the obligations of the agreement and to guarantee the country's access to technology for the complete cycling of nuclear fuels through the application of IAEA safeguards."

Figueiredo's remarks are also an answer to the critics of the Brazilian nuclear program, a program which has been labeled as burdensome by some national scientists who ask that the period for its implementation be extended.

Figueiredo criticized the protectionist policy adopted by industrialized countries, saying that it is "bad for everyone" because of the inflationary pressure it places on developing countries by restricting the entry of their products into more developed markets. He praised the attitude of Chancellor Schmidt in opposing protectionism and favoring the review of such a policy by the industrialized countries.

Figueiredo pointed out the increased bilateral trade in recent years, from $700 million in 1971 to $2 billion in 1978, and then noted that new and higher figures can be achieved in the coming years, "justifying a joint and renewed effort to intensify trade of goods and services."

He also said that Brazil and the FRG have had "important successes" in the political area and suggested that the two countries remain "on the road of understanding through these contacts and through the search for new paths to exchange ideas between the two governments."

After praising Schmidt for the FRG's moderate and realistic action toward promoting peace and well-being in all nations, Figueiredo stated that the Brazilian Government is committed to economically developing the country, "with social justice, civil liberties and democratic order."

Schmidt and Figueiredo will hold two private meetings tomorrow and the FRG-Brazilian nuclear agreement might be one of the important points of discussion.

Schmidt, Figueiredo Remarks

LD040904 Hamburg DPA in German 0357 GMT 4 Apr 79 LD

[Excerpts] Brasilia--Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figueiredo have once again stated that they would uphold the FRG-Brazilian nuclear energy agreement. Speaking at a banquet shortly after his arrival in Brasilia on Tuesday night, Schmidt said: "Our close cooperation in the field of the peaceful use of nuclear energy is characterized by an awareness of responsibility and an objective and balanced approach."

Figueiredo stressed the Brazilian Government's determination to secure the implementation of the agreement and to fulfill the envisaged commitments.

Schmidt, who is the first Bonn chancellor to pay an official visit to Latin America, was received with military honors at the Brazilian capital's airport.

During his dinner speech, the federal chancellor called on the oil-producing states not to lose sight of "what can be expected of the world economy and particularly for the developing countries in the way of restrictions in energy consumption of their ability to pay for other imports."

Figueiredo asked the chancellor to continue his efforts to lessen the protectionist trends in the EEC and the other industrial states. The Brazilian president stressed that the dialog between Brasilia and Bonn gained daily in importance; it is based on the basic values of sovereign equality between the countries and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Schmidt, too, favored the preservation of an open and working world economy for trade and investments. According to Schmidt, all partners must regard each other as equal and look for compromises in frank dialog which will secure a free, flexible and working economic order and bring progress to the developing countries also.

Figueiredo Interview

DW041150 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 2000 GMT 3 Apr 79 DW

[Correspondent Eckstein interview with Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figueiredo in Brasilia, recorded in Portuguese, German translation superimposed]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, does your government have any idea about the period of time needed for the construction of the additional nuclear power plant?

[Answer] Naturally, this will depend on my talks with Chancellor Schmidt, but it will not be a central topic since the agreements in this field have been completely safeguarded. The work on the technical design as stated in the contract is proceeding as planned. Thus, I think that the question concerning a delay in the delivery of the nuclear powerplants is immaterial. The construction of the nuclear powerplants is important for both countries. For Brazil it is especially significant considering the energy supply which may indeed make possible the economic development of a large part of the country. Hence, it is important that we devote our attention to the full observance of the commitments undertaken and that we solicit further understanding for the goals which we propose to achieve with the help of the German-Brazilian nuclear agreement.

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON IMPLICATIONS OF HARRISBURG ACCIDENT

Government Concern

PY031458 Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 3 Apr 79 PY

[Text] The mines and energy minister has said that security aspects of the Brazilian nuclear program have been discussed during a meeting of the Superior Energy Council. Minister Cesar Cals said he has received a report that all possible measures are being taken to avoid problems that could jeopardize the population and adversely affect the seriousness with which problems in this sector are treated. He added that the government is attentively following reports on the accident at the Three Mile Island plant in Pennsylvania because we are not indifferent to problems of this kind.

The NUCLEBRAS president declined to comment on the security problems in the Brazilian nuclear program. Paulo Nogueira Batista said that the subject concerns Hervasio de Carvalho, president of the National Nuclear Energy Council.

Senator Franco Montoro has said that he is going to ask for a revision of the Brazilian nuclear project. [Begin Montoro recording] I am going to ask the congressional investigating committee which is investigating the conditions of the nuclear program to direct a great part of the activities of this commission toward the nuclear pollution problem. An example of this is the accident that has occurred in the United States.

The Brazilian Society of Physics through its president, Jose Goldemberg, has presented the studies made by this society, which includes all leading Brazilian physicists and nuclear technicians on this project. The subject is serious not only in the United States. This subject also seriously and dramatically concerns the Brazilian population because a nuclear reactor is being built in Angra dos Reis which is exactly like the reactor that has malfunctioned in the United States, the (?PWR) type. [end recording]

Incident 'Insignificant'

PY031841 Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 3 Apr 79 PY

[Text] The president of the National Nuclear Energy Commission believes that the accident involving a nuclear energy plant in the United States is insignificant. In the opinion of Hervasio Guimaraes, in a world where there are more than 200 nuclear energy plants, a defect in only one is not significant. Guimaraes took the opportunity to calm the Brazilian people, saying that the Nuclear Energy Commission is observing strict safety measures in the installation of domestic nuclear plants.

'Drastic Review'

PY040328 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 4 Apr 79 PY

[Text] The president of the Brazilian Physics Society, Jose Goldemberg, believes that drastic review of the norms on nuclear safety in Brazil is in order now because, should an accident like the one in Harrisburg occur in Brazil, we would be less prepared than the Americans to cope with it, more so since the U.S. procedures proved to be insufficient. Professor Goldemberg believes that an accident similar to the one in the United States can occur in Angra dos Reis or in any other plant of the same kind, although the nuclear industry is claiming that the probability is negligible.

COMMERCE MINISTER DISCUSSES NEW ECONOMIC GUIDELINES

PY030302 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 2 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] Industry and Commerce Minister Joao Camilo Pena discussed today in a press conference held at Planalto Palace the guidelines established for his ministry by President Figueiredo.

The minister announced the installation of the Commercial Development Council and the Civil Construction Council and the transfer to his ministry of the enforcement of the similarity law [which restricts imports of products also produced in Brazil]. The insurance sector will now be under the Finance Ministry.

With regard to savings, the minister said that his ministry is giving great consideration to risk capital for industries. In his opinion, internal savings is not bad but it could be better. He said that Brazil's savings ought to account for 23 percent of its GDP, while many countries need 30 percent. Therefore, he said, a country which needs new investments to create new jobs should make a great effort to increase its internal savings.

The minister said that the state will participate in the economy only to stimulate national industry and trade. He asserted that President Figueiredo seeks to strengthen the national private sector.

He said: Since the government wants to reduce state involvement in the economy, the first step toward achieving this is to stop any further involvement in the economy. He noted that the government does not intend to create new enterprises to undertake activities which may be carried out by the private sector.

TEACHERS GO ON STRIKE IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL

PY031739 Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 3 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Public school teachers in Rio Grande do Sul State have decided at a special assembly to decree a general strike beginning Thursday to force the state government to grant them a 30-percent salary increase in addition to the 40 percent already approved. The strike has no predicted deadline and has been considered by the education secretary as a decision which closes the door to dialog.

MARCONDES FILHO NAMED 1ST ARMY COMMANDER

PY040044 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Gen Gentil Marcondes Filho will be sworn in as commander of the 1st Army on 24 April, replacing Gen Jose Pinto Rabello, who was transferred to the reserves. The ceremony will be held at 1000 in the Sampaio Regiment, in the Rio de Janeiro military village.

CONGRESS EXAMINES SOMOZA BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS

PA292014 Paris AFP in Spanish 1711 GMT 29 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Mar (AFP)--The Colombian Congress has accused Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza of trying to monopolize Colombia's mineral resources by acquiring rich coal deposits, it was learned here today. According to charges for debate, Somoza has become the leading concessionaire for the exploitation of 1.2 million hectares of coal deposits using relatives and third parties as intermediaries.

According to Congressman Hector Echeverri, Somoza has become the leading beneficiary of Colombia's coal.

Congressional sources recalled that Somoza had used a similar method to acquire control of the inter-American magazine VISION, which prompted the president of the Editing Council, former Colombian President Alberto Lleras Camargo, and all of his assistants to resign.

Meanwhile, groups of congressmen have asked for a debate on Somoza's relationship with the exploitation of Colombia's mineral resources.

ATTORNEY GENERAL DENIES CHARGES OF TORTURE

PA032030 Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--Attorney General Guillermo Gonzalez Charry referred today to charges of torture in the country's jails made during the forum on human rights. He said that his office has demonstrated with evidence that torture has never occurred.

Clearly rejecting the charges, the attorney general said his office has at no time connived with the authorities to hide such events. He noted that, on the contrary, the experts appointed have faithfully fulfilled their mission and have proved that there has been no torture. He added that he can make no further statements about events on which the Attorney General's Office has submitted documents proving that there has been no such torture.

3 GUERRILLAS DIE IN CLASH WITH ARMY TROOPS

PA040309 Paris AFP in Spanish 0206 GMT 4 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 3 Apr (AFP)--It has been officially announced here that three guerrillas died today after clashing with army troops in northern Colombia.

According to a communique released by the 4th Brigade, 25 members of the Maoist Popular Liberation Army (EPL) engaged in a fight with members of the Junin Battalion near Montelibano, Cordoba Department, 900 km from Bogota.

The rebel command, which was apparently led by German Linares Robledo (Pinino), sustained three casualties and lost a large amount of war materiel.

Reportedly, several other guerrillas may have been injured in the clash.

NEW CULTURAL AGREEMENT DISCUSSED WITH USSR

PA031247 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0036 GMT 3 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 2 Apr (EFE)--The governments of Colombia and the USSR started contacts here today on a program for the application and expansion of the cultural agreement signed by the two nations in 1970. For that purpose, a delegation of Soviet Foreign Ministry officials has arrived in Bogota. The group, headed by Zujra Rajimbeava [as received] and Mikhail Shalayev, will meet with representatives of Colombian cultural organizations.

A government spokesman said the new agreement will be signed at the end of the talks. The agreement will include programs of various types, such as a Soviet offer to expand and increase the number of scholarships and expenditures for the scholars' clothing and vacation needs. An exchange of artistic groups for the next 2 years will also be discussed.

TRADE EXCHANGE TALKS CONCLUDED WITH GDR

PA031535 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 29 Mar 79 p 12 PA

[Excerpt] The third Colombian-GDR mixed commission held meetings recently in Berlin and Leipzig in the GDR. The commission established bases for a dynamic and fair trade exchange between the two nations.

The Colombian delegation was headed by Edgar Moncayo, director of the Foreign Trade Institute [INCOMEX]. Moncayo met with GDR Foreign Trade Minister Horst Soelle in Leipzig.

Trade relations between Colombia and the GDR have evolved satisfactorily over more than 24 years. Relations were initially regulated by a private agreement signed with the National Federation of Coffeegrowers, but in 1967 they shifted to a government-to-government agreement based on a compensation system.

The GDR occupies an important place in Colombia's trade relations with socialist countries. Colombia mainly exports coffee and bananas to the GDR and imports manufactured and semimanufactured goods from it. These goods include insecticides, fertilizer, machinery, tools, precision instruments and educational materials. The trade balance and the balance of the compensation account have been positive for Colombia.

The specific results of the third meeting included the following: The GDR agreed to import $30 million worth of coffee, bananas and textiles from Colombia. For its part, Colombia agreed to make greater use of its credit line with the GDR and to eliminate redtape that has prevented more active exchange. The two delegations agreed on their interest in drafting a cooperation agreement that would be different from the present one in order to establish a suitable framework for scientific-technical cooperation.

A document stating the export commitments of the two parties and progress achieved was signed at the end of the meeting.

GOVERNMENT WANTS TO REDUCE AREA TO BE FLOODED BY YACYRETA

PY030319 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 2 Apr 79 p 15 PY

[Text] The national government is maintaining a firm position regarding additional engineering studies aimed at reducing the area to be flooded [by Yacyreta]. An official delegation is leaving for Washington today to explain to the World Bank the government's position on the necessary studies.

In this regard, the Foreign Ministry released the government's position in the following communique:

1. The Paraguayan Government, which feels that the area to be flooded by the Yacyreta dam would be too large, according to the current study of the project, has decided, by exercising its legitimate right, that additional studies should be made in an attempt to substantially reduce the flooding.

2. The national government's position has been officially reported to the appropriate Argentine officials at various levels and again recently on 14 February 1979 by the representative of the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry and the binational Yacyreta enterprise to his Argentine counterpart, the representative of the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

3. The studies mentioned refer to a part of the dam that represents 20 percent of the dam's total cost. In other words, 80 percent of the total cost of the project, which includes the most important parts such as the main dam with the powerhouse, the spillway and the navigation locks, would be affected.

4. The time needed for the studies will not necessarily affect the project's work schedule since the international public bidding for the civil construction can be called while the studies are being carried out. If any changes result from the studies, they would be reported in time to the bidders.

5. The appropriate Argentine officials have not yet replied. However, the national government, aware of its responsibility to appropriately preserve the exploitation of the national territory, and in order to make the right decision, deems it absolutely necessary to have certain elements for making a judgment and these will be provided by the studies.

6. The representatives of the national government are leaving for Washington today to discuss with the IBRD all matters related to this bank's financing in accordance with this viewpoint, which represents the position of the national government. Cesar Romeo Acosta and Carlos Saldivar are leaving tonight.

STROESSNER REPORTEDLY SEEKS MEETING WITH VIDELA

PY030339 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 2 Apr 79 p 6 PY

[Excerpts] Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner is reportedly considering a personal dialog with Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla to solve the differences over the Yacyreta hydroelectric project. According to an unofficial report circulated in Asuncion yesterday, despite the fact that there are no plans for the two presidents to meet, Stroessner will take the initiative if the Argentine Government maintains its negative attitude toward changing the original design of this dam on the Parana River.

According to Paraguayan estimates, the design of the current project will flood more than 1,200 square km of its territory and 215 square km of Argentine territory; therefore, Paraguay proposes a radical change in the project to reduce its flooded area by 900 square km.

According to official circles, the Argentine Government has decided not to accept any changes in the dam, a common project that began last year with preliminary works. The Argentine position is based on the greater cost involved and the delay due to the need to redesign the project that has been approved by the World Bank through financial arrangements that took more than 2 years.

Paraguayan Reaction

PY031816 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 3 Apr 79 p 12 PY

[Excerpt] Paraguayan Government sources were not aware yesterday of any negotiations regarding a future meeting between the presidents of Paraguay and Argentina, Alfredo Stroessner and Jorge Rafael Videla, respectively. Buenos Aires newspapers yesterday published a rumor that must have begun with a cable report by a news agency correspondent in Asuncion.

Argentine newspapers published a report yesterday about a possible meeting between the presidents of Paraguay and Argentina, Generals Alfredo Stroessner and Jorge Rafael Videla, respectively.

Official government sources consulted by this newspaper stated, however, that they were not aware of the origin of the rumor, claiming that it could be attributed to journalistic speculation--"one more of the many rumors disseminated during the past few days," according to our source.

The sources also stated that it is still premature to talk about a meeting between the two presidents, because "any meeting at that level requires a normal preparatory process, and so far there is no negotiation whatsoever in this regard, a high-level official source stated.

There had been rumors before about a tripartite presidential meeting (Stroessner-Videla-Figueiredo) to discuss important subjects regarding the use of the Parana River aimed at generating energy. The rumors were quickly denied.

Now they are saying that Stroessner and Videla will meet to try to find a solution to the Yacyreta project about which some disagreements must have emerged between the two governments in view of the Paraguayan proposal to conduct studies that may reduce the area of Paraguayan territory to be flooded by the Parana River when the Yacyreta Dam is built. It has been unofficially reported that Argentina has irrevocably rejected the proposal, but no official report has been released yet in this regard.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION

PA032234 Paris AFP in Spanish 1739 GMT 3 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 3 Apr (AFP)--The Peruvian military government approved the new draft constitution and expressed its determination to continue working toward the transfer of power and the nation's economic recovery, it was revealed here today.

Last night, Chief of State Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez said that the draft constitution contains all those issues the government considered fundamental for the institutionalization of the structural reforms which have contributed to giving the nation a new appearance.

The document was brought up for discussion yesterday by the assembly, now in permanent session, but the debate was suspended in the night when the withdrawal of the Popular Christian Party legislators broke the quorum. They will return to the session today, however. The 25 representatives of this group, headed by their leader, Luis Bedoya, adopted the measure to protest the closing by the government of 10 independent publications last January and February.

President Morales Bermudez also declared that the revolutionary government of the armed forces will continue the orderly and methodical transfer of power and the nation's economic recovery to set the foundations for a stable democracy. Referring to the armed forces' historic commitment, he noted that the institution was determined to provide Peru with a new constitution after completing several necessary structural changes. As provided by the new constitution, he added, the government will establish the most important rules, especially concerning the electoral process for the transfer of power.

Finally he expressed the hope that harsh aspects of the economic program in effect will be gradually alleviated because effective steps have been taken toward definite goals and encouraging signs of recovery are evident.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON ARMS PURCHASES, BOTELHO VISIT

PA312224 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Mar 79 p 1 PA

[Text] Foreign Relations Minister Carlos Garcia Bedoya yesterday categorically said that every country is free to purchase arms. He said this when asked about Chile and Ecuador's purchase of arms. "That is their business. In the same way, we will not accept any meddling when we make purchases," he firmly asserted. He made these statements at the airport soon after his Bolivian colleague Raul Botelho had left for Bolivia, but was forced to return because of engine failure after the plane had been in the air for an hour.

Foreign Minister Garcia Bedoya said that Bolivian Foreign Minister Botelho's official visit had been "very positive in consolidating ties with that sister nation." Garcia Bedoya said that in the agreements reached there are special cooperation plans favorable to international commerce. He also mentioned that Bolivia had been granted port facilities. Foreign Minister Garcia Bedoya said that he has been invited to visit Bolivia.

When asked about the Pacificwar centennial commemoration, Garcia Bedoya said information regarding that event could be obtained from the prime minister's office.

HERRERA CAMPINS ANSWERS CRITICISM DURING INTERVIEW

PA031500 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 29 Mar 79 p D-1 PA

[Longobardo Lossada Roa interview with President Luis Herrera Campins in San Cristobal on 28 March]

[Excerpt] [Question] The opposition parties, and particularly Democratic Action, insist that your government is not getting started.

[Answer] I should say that I have very carefully listened to and respected all criticism leveled at my government during the 2 weeks it has been in power. Naturally, I will try to forestall any future criticism. However, I have a fundamental duty to the country that I think is above everything else. I must clearly emphasize that my style of government is different from that of the preceding government. I have no reason to continue the policy of creating psychological tension by issuing decrees that were sweet music to one's ears at first but then turned into bitter frustration for everybody because they were impractical.

I have been telling--in an aside--this country that I am a president who feels affection for the people and who has a fundamental duty to the poor. This is, I should say, the first thing I wish to stress sincerely and to show to our people at the beginning of my administration.

[Question] It is said that you selected your Cabinet prematurely.

[Answer] I selected a Cabinet that includes no figureheads or dummies. Its members were not selected prematurely. It is a Cabinet of competent, imaginative people who are knowledgeable in their field of responsibility and who are basically going to work as a team. That is why I am implementing my platform gradually and logically. We are going to organize the ministries on the basis of the five work areas included in my platform. They are the socioeconomic area, the area of education and culture, the area of transformation and development of our physical environment, the area of arrangement of our territory [as published] and the security and defense area. The holder of each portfolio will manage each of these areas. It is through this system that we will develop our approach to and study of any problems we find in order to work out immediate solutions for them. I am certain that the people who have been selected as Cabinet ministers and state governors will be equal to the trust I have placed in them and that they will constitute a new leadership in our country. This must not be forgotten.

[Question] Is it true that there is unrest within your party and that it is not fully supporting your administration?

[Answer] I have had no incident or problem with the Social Christian Party [COPEI]. I must say that I have received utmost cooperation from COPEI. What I am most grateful for is that I was left entirely free to choose my government team. I was not subjected to any pressure or coercion. That is the truth.

[Question] It is said that several ministers are going to be replaced.

[Answer] What? With the Cabinet having been in office only 15 days?

MEP SEEKS CORRUPTION INDICTMENT AGAINST PEREZ

PA310337 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0224 GMT 30 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 29 Mar (LATIN)--The People's Electoral Movement [MEP] today demanded that former President Carlos Andres Perez and two Democratic Action (AD) deputies be stripped of their parliamentary immunity and subjected to a political trial. The demand was made during a parliamentary debate on government corruption.

Deputy Eduardo Fernandez from the ruling Social Christian COPEI Party said this afternoon that his party will wait for the legal procedure that requires a pretrial for merit by the Supreme Court before facing an eventual political trial.

The MEP's demand is an attempt to strip Perez and AD deputies David Morales Bello and Virgilio Avila Vivas of parliamentary immunity. Perez ended his presidential term on 12 March and is now a lifetime senator.

BRIEFS

NEW CVG BOARD--Caracas, 28 Mar (VENPRES)--Andres Sucre Eduardo has been sworn in as the new chairman of the Board of Directors of the Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana, an autonomous institution assigned to the presidency whose main function is to organize and promote the utilization of Guayana's resources. The other board members are: Maurice Valery, Antonio Casas Gonzalez, German Luis Soriano, Edgardo Tenreiro Degwitz and Jose Vasquez, labor representative. [Caracas VENPRES Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0125 GMT 30 Mar 79 PA]

CANAL TREATIES SUFFER 'ANOTHER SETBACK'

PA040453 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0414 GMT 4 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Official U.S. sources said today that resolutions passed by a House of Representatives committee violate the spirit of the Panama Canal treaties and obstruct its implementation. The implementation of the treaties suffered another setback today when the House of Representatives Merchant Marine Committee approved by a vote of 21 to 17 a bill that could annul the delivery to Panama of $5 million annually. By the same number of votes, the committee passed another measure that could prevent the delivery of $10 million to Panama from a surplus obtained from the canal's operations.

All these maneuvers are nothing but obstructionist acts against the implementation of the treaties by congressmen opposed to them. These congressmen are telling taxpayers that the implementation of the treaties will cost more than $4 billion. President Carter's administration has expressed its worry over difficulties presented by the committees for the transfer of the Canal Zone next October and of the interoceanic passageway in the year 2000.

President Carter told Rep John Murphy, the committee president, about the convenience of reaching an agreement, but Murphy said that the only compromise he is following is not to violate the specifications of the already ratified treaties.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT COMMENTS ON MILITARY AID SUSPENSION

PA031603 Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Apr 79 PA

[Lucho Pimentel commentary during "Commentarios y Opiniones" program]

[Excerpts] Concerning the refusal of military aid to Panama, [Christian Democratic Party member] Edgardo Molino Mola says that, in view of the U.S. House of Representatives rejection of military aid to Panama due to the Panamanian administration's policy of violating human rights, some mass media, both television and press, have criticized the decision, contending that it is the position of those opposed to the Torrijos-Carter treaties. That is why today I criticized the violations of human rights under a ruling by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission issued on 8 March 1979. The ruling discusses the Thelma King case, giving the Panamanian Government 60 days to implement the recommendations contained in the ruling.

We also link the U.S. military aid suspension to the statement made before the United Nations in Geneva on 22 February 1979 by Mark Schneider, U.S. deputy assistant secretary for human rights, in which he said that it would cost the countries. [sentence as heard]

Furthermore, a press law that violates human rights has been enacted here. We are going to report it to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission because it suspends one of man's individual rights, the freedom of expression. Dr Edgardo Molino Mola's article on the rejection of military aid to Panama continues: We understand that it is the policy of the U.S. Government to refuse aid to countries that violate human rights--the statement mentioned. Obviously, a loan is aid or assistance whether it is used to purchase weapons or food. The thing is that the report on the status of human rights in Panama was zealously held back until after the treaties had been discussed in the United States.

It is a fallacy to say that various media run by competent newsmen misinformed the public by saying that it is those who are opposed to the treaties [who caused this situation]. That is absolutely false. The government is responsible for this situation because it continues to violate human rights.

Molino Mola continues: I must remind those who claim that human rights violations in Panama are a thing of the past and that the administration is behaving now that the most important of the Panamanian people's human rights was recently violated--the right to choose their president--when the government first indicated that there would be no election until 1984 and that Royo would be president until then. A political parties law was then established so that the parties spin the roulette wheel that they created. Human dignity is disregarded by compelling public officials, in a poorly disguised fashion, to pay political dues and register in a government party. Most countries that have gone from a dictatorship to democracy through a decision of the armed forces have done so through a constituent assembly or direct presidential elections on the short run. As can be seen, this is not Panama's case and it is justifiably viewed as a country without democracy or one where democracy is wanting, where human rights are certainly violated. That is why aid to Panama was suspended.

LIBERAL PARTY DECIDES TO REGISTER, APPOINTS COMMISSION

PA011922 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Mar 79 pp 1, 34 PA

[Resolution of the Libenal Party National Directorate approved during a meeting in Panama City on 28 March, 1979]

[Text] Resolution No 1:

1. Through a resolution on 16 February 1979, the Liberal Party National Directorate decided to "authorize the presentation of the party's registration after having attempted to unite liberalism and similar democratic groups."

2. A commisson was therefore appointed to work for unification.

3. The appointed commission has submitted its report, having fulfilled the task to which the first point of the resolution refers.

Resolves:

1. To authorize the Board of Directors and the Political Committee of the Liberal Party to set the registration date and to present the request with the proper documents to the electoral tribunal; to likewise authorize the president of the party, the Board of Directors and the Political Committee to incorporate the current National Directorate, its Board of Directors and Political Committee into the provisional directorate of registration and to fill the vacancies in the National Directorate. They are also authorized to include in the provisional directorate those persons who, because of their importance and representativity, they believe it is advisable to include in the directorate.

Presented by Roderick Esquivel, national director

Seconded by Jorge Riba, national director

Approved by the National Directorate, 42 votes in favor, 13 votes against and 2 abstentions

AGRARIAN LABOR PARTY DENIES PARTICIPATION IN FRENO

PA011937 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 30 Mar 79 pp 1-A, 6-A PA

[Communique from the Political Committee of the National Directorate of the Agrarian Labor Party issued on 29 March 1979]

[Text] The Political Committee of the National Directorate of the Agrarian Labor Party (PLA) notifies citizens that:

1. Social communications media have reported communiques in which the PLA appears as a member of the National Opposition Front (FRENO).

2. Neither the Secretariat General nor any other representative body of the party has been invited to participate in talks with other national political groups to establish the FRENO.

3. As a result of this, no person has been authorized to represent the party in the aforementioned political meetings and much less to sign agreements or communiques.

4. Nevertheless, the PLA maintains its principle of being an independent party without bosses and open to all dialog on behalf of national interests.

Issued in Panama City on 29 March 1979

[Signed] PLA Political Committee

Azael Vargas, secretary.

LEWIS GALINDO SUES TWO NEWSMEN FOR SLANDER

PA031438 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 3 Apr 79 p 1 PA

[Text] Panama Canal Authority Director General Gabriel Lewis Galindo yesterday filed libel suits against two newsmen whose allegations he said cast doubt on his "honor, decorum, rectitude and patriotism." The suits were filed against the director of a radio news-commentator and the editor of a tabloid published by the Independent Democratic Movement."

Milciades A. Ortiz, the radio news commentator, is alleged to have charged on March 5 that Lewis had been granted contract by the White House to sell liquor in the Canal Zone while he was Panama's ambassador in Washington. Over the morning news program entitled "Conciencia," Ortiz is also said to have stated that the liquor concession had led to "grave differences" between Lewis and Canal Zone Governor H. R. Parfitt.

The same charges were published on March 15 by the tabloid "EL INDEPENDIENTE," edited by Rodrigo Sanchez. Lewis argues that the charges seriously impute his prestige by tacitly accusing him of corruption in his conduct as a public official and tend to publicly discredit him.

In his suits, Lewis requested that the two men be placed under preventive arrest. The suits were not presented until yesterday because the courts had been closed during the annual monthlong vacation in March each year.

COSTA RICA

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST CAPTURED TRAWLER BEGIN

PA031928 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 3 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpts] The public security minister said this morning that the trawler captured on Sunday is not from Senegal; it is flying the Congolese flag. The ship is rented to the American Starkist company.

Charges of piracy and poaching against the tuna trawler (Loango) were filed yesterday before the second trial court in Puntarenas by Jose Francisco Peralta, the public security minister's legal adviser. The port commander's office said that the ship's 22-man crew is being held in port.

The captain is a naturalized American named Carlos (Cota). Government patrol boats continue combing the Cocos Island area for pirate ships.

EL SALVADOR

RECENT ARMED CLASHES LEAVE SEVERAL DEAD

PA040243 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0046 GMT 4 Apr 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Several persons were killed in various armed clashes that have occurred during the past few days.

In the Apulo tourist center, on Lake Ilopango, an unidentified man and a woman were killed. The authorities claim that they were about to attack a National Guard post.

Another clash between civilians and customs police occurred in Guazapa, where one of the attackers was killed. Authorities believe that the attackers suffered more casualties but that they took their dead with them. Guazapa residents were alarmed at the duration of the clash, which occurred at the graveyard where the subversives were burying one of their dead comrades.

It was revealed that the funeral was organized in such a manner that it became a demonstration that caused disorders, official sources said.

NICARAGUA

NICARAGUA TO JOIN NONALINED AFTER LIBERATION

PA031911 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Luis Carrion and Tomas Borge, members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] joint leadership, have said during an interview held somewhere in Nicaragua and sent to Radio Havana that the struggle the Nicaraguan people are waging is part of the battle for final liberation being waged by all oppressed people.

The two leaders said that Nicaragua will join the nonalined movement once it is liberated. They added that the FSLN will send a delegation to act as observer at the movement's sixth summit meeting to be held in Havana in September. They also announced that the Sandinist organization is drafting a foreign policy document and is attempting to enter the United Nations as an observer.

Carrion and Borge said that once the tyranny is overthrown Nicaragua will maintain relations with countries that respect its freedom and integrity. They affirmed that the revolutionary government will pay all debts owed by the country, including even those incurred by the Somoza dictatorship.

Concluding, they expressed gratitude for the solidarity of all progressive forces with the Nicaraguan people's cause and recalled that an international conference in support of the Nicaraguan patriots will be held in Venezuela in the next few months.

OPPOSITION GROUP OF 12 ISSUES FIRST MANIFESTO

PA010251 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0042 GMT 1 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The first manifesto of the opposition Group of 12 released here today appealed for complete unity and welcomed Sandinist unification as recently declared by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. The Group of 12 consists of 12 distinguished Nicaraguan citizens who decided to unite in opinion and action to struggle with determination against what they call the dynastic dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. They welcome the backing of all those who wish to support their struggle.

The 12 have completed an intercontinental tour to gain solidarity for the Nicaraguan people struggling for the elimination of the Somoza dictatorship. The manifesto expresses the group's full support for Sandinist unification and uses it as an example for the opposition in the country to consolidate in unity as they (the 12) have sought since issuing their first statement at the end of 1977 when they revealed their nascence in the Nicaraguan political struggle from San Jose, Costa Rica.

The new manifesto is dedicated to the heroic Nicaraguan people. In it the 12 state that, consistent with the inclination toward democracy and national unity on which the group is founded, they declare their determined support for the National Patriotic Front [FPN], contributing to its establishment, participating in its Executive Secretariat and disseminating in all the countries they visit its program and objectives.

The 14 signers of the manifesto said that FPN has already been recognized abroad as the political representative of the majority of the Nicaraguan people struggling for liberation and democracy. It is so recognized by political, labor and union organizations and democratic personalities in Venezuela, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Barbados, Surinam, Costa Rica and other countries in Latin America and Europe, they said. The 12 have fully identified themselves with the plan for immediate realization of the FPN if Somoza's overthrow should occur before the end of his presidential term in 1981. They said they believe that this program summarizes and modernizes the thoughts of Gen Augusto Cesar Sandino and the democratic aspirations of all sectors of the population. Sandino was shot and killed by the National Guard 45 years ago while leading a rebellion against the U.S. occupation of Nicaragua.

The 12 reaffirmed their determination to work and channel the civic and political struggle of all independent and progressive citizens who are not committed to any political organization so that they may make their contribution to the cause of national liberation and the construction of a democratic state with social justice.

President Somoza recently reaffirmed his determination to remain in power until the end of his presidential term and invited his political opponents to overthrow him in an election struggle.

WAVE OF VIOLENCE CONTINUES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

PA031751 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1544 GMT 3 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--One officer of the Basic Infantry Training School. three soldiers and two civilians were killed in a new wave of violence in Nicaragua.

Julio Salvador Pereira, the officer, was killed in a clash between army troops and Sandinist guerrillas who, according to official reports, are currently fleeing to Honduras after last week's attack on the army command at El Jicaro, Nueva Segovia Department, on the Honduran border.

The clash occurred at La Supa Hill. Soldiers are continuing to pursue tne guerrillas. They killed three guerrillas in a clash over the weekend.

A plane accident has been reported in that region. A DC-47 military plane had a flat tire while landing on the runway at Jalapa, another town near the Honduran border. The plane was seriously damaged but the crew was not hurt.

The National Guard Legal and Public Relations Office also reported that another attack was conducted by elements of the Sandinist National Liberation Front in Esteli, also in northern Nicaragua. They attacked offices of the National Telecommunications and Post Office Directorate [Direccion Nacional de Telecomunicaciones y Correos--TELCOR] and the Nicaragua cigar factory. No casualties were reported.

Later another guerrilla brigade positioned itself at the Nuestra Senora del Rosario school in Esteli and fired upon a National Guard patrol, killing one of its members.

In Leon, 92 km west of Managua, a Sandinist brigade attacked and killed a corporal and an army aide in one of the streets of the Ermita de Dolares suburb last night. Authorities investigating the attack clashed with the guerrillas. They exchanged shots. The guerrillas fled, leaving blood traces behind. The guerrillas wounded a soldier before fleeing the scene.

The wave of subversion continued last night in Managua where armed individuals detonated powerful bombs in various suburbs. There were also skirmishes between alleged guerrillas and police patrols. They occurred in eastern Managua in Nicarao, 14 September, Rubenia and Las America neighborhoods and the Riguero and Waspan suburbs. Two civilians--who had no connection with the confrontation--were killed in the clashes.

A few hours earlier another Sandinist cell attacked the administrative offices of the Ruben Dario building at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua in southern Managua. The Sandinists took 10 revolvers used by university security guards.

YOUTHS OCCUPY OAS OFFICES; HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CALL STRIKE

PA032349 Paris AFP in Spanish 2009 GMT 3 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 Apr (AFP)--The OAS offices were occupied by masked youths today protesting against President Anastasio Somoza's administration. Later, they were supported by some 10,000 high school students who called a strike, reports said.

Other youth groups assaulted businesses and vehicles seeking funds to purchase weapons in the struggle against the government, according to what they told their victims.

The masked youths at the OAS offices are awaiting the imminent arrival of government troops. Other groups of boys compelled hundreds of persons to leave places of entertainment by issuing bomb threats. Meanwhile, armored vehicles went into action in seven sectors in Managua.

The Sandinist National Liberation Front detonated dynamite during the night, which kept Managua residents in a state of anguish. Meanwhile, the wave of violence is continuing in other parts of the country.

In Esteli, 150 km north of Managua, guerrillas ambushed a military patrol, killing one soldier and wounding six others, unofficial reports said. Press reports said that three soldiers threw their weapons away and fled when Sandinists attacked them in an Esteli district.

The army revealed that an airplane carrying supplies for troops fighting Sandinist guerrillas in the northern part of the country crashed some 350 km north of Managua.

Further Details

PA032350 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2009 GMT 3 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 3 Apr (LATIN)--A group of students peacefully occupied the OAS offices in this capital today. Meanwhile, the authorities reported new outbreaks of political violence. The occupation carried out by a self-styled youth commission of the United People's Movement spread to several high schools where the closing of the well-known Radio Corporacion station was protested. Spokesmen of the group said that although the occupation of school buildings will last for only 24 hours, the OAS offices will be vacated only after the closing of the radio station has been revoked.

The National Radio and Television Directorate closed the radio station last Tuesday after two of its newscasts carried interviews with an opposition political leader and the mothers of missing political prisoners.

The police also revealed that an unidentified youth died during an armed clash in north-eastern Managua.

Intense shooting occurred in five eastern Managua districts. According to residents, after several police patrols were attacked with firearms and contact bombs by unidentified persons, the report said. [sentence as received]

The youth killed in the armed clashes was taken by the police to the El Retiro Hospital morgue. He had a red handerchief tied around his neck. This identified him as a possible member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, the communique said.

The boy died in a station wagon in which another youth, identified as Ausberto Paladino, was captured, the police said. An FAL automatic rifle, a .22-caliber rifle, sticks of dynamite and contact bombs were found inside the vehicle, the authorities added.

The residents of Matagalpa and Esteli, in northern Nicaragua, also reported intense shooting throughout last night. However, the Red Cross reported that it had not picked up any wounded.

2 DEAD, SEVERAL ARRESTED AS SANDINISTS INCREASE ACTION

PA022023 Paris AFP in Spanish 1941 GMT 2 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 2 Apr (AFP)--A group of 10 masked youths who identified themselves as Sandinists broke into the only private hospital in Managua and escaped with most of the surgical equipment, it was reported here today. The health center robbed was the Hospital Bautista. It is believed here that the Sandinists must be in urgent need of surgical instruments.

Meanwhile, other rebels intensified activities in Managua with a series of new attacks.

Three supermarkets located in different areas of Managua were robbed. First estimates indicate the Sandinists escaped with $100,000. Some 20 youths broke into the houses of the three supermarket managers, took their relatives hostage and forced them to go their offices and turn over the proceeds from weekend sale.

A Nicaraguan Army officer and a sergeant were killed in violent incidents in the last few hours, while police patrols have captured at least 70 persons, mostly minors, throughout the country suspected of Sandinist activities. The prisoners include Carlos Garrison, 24, the son of the president of the country's most important financial group.

CUBAN MEDIA REPORT ON HARRISBURG NUCLEAR REACTOR INCIDENT

FL032205 (Editorial Report FL) Havana Domestic Services have not been heard to editorialize on the Harrisburg nuclear reactor incident. In their reportage they have stressed the negative aspects of the accident, the evacuation of local residents and protest demonstrations. Havana Domestic Television initially gave little coverage to the accident, but subsequently began reporting developments during its two daily newscasts.

Havana Television at 1700 GMT on 2 April reported factual aspects of the incident and emphasized that amid "great contradictions" executives of the company owning the plant are trying to belittle the importance of the incident, "while there is a wave of protest all over the United States against this and other private companies" which have put similar plants into operation "without the appropriate safety measures." Another Havana television report at 0001 GMT on 3 April states that 6 days after the "grave accident" at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant, "the at mic reactor continues emitting radiation, and all efforts to control the reactor have been unsuccessful." It states that the "deserted streets of Middletown, where a curfew has been imposed to prevent looting," reflect the "panic that reigns near the installation." It then reports that hundreds of demonstrators in California are demanding the closing of a plant similar to the one at Three Mile Island, and that Governor Brown "already has made the official request" for its closure while "Yankee police" attack those who express their protest near the fences of the plant in Sacramento.

Havana's Radio Reloj at 1821 GMT on 2 April reports that experts from several "capitalist countries are arriving in the United States to study the accident at the Harrisburg nuclear plant." It adds that France, West Germany, Japan and other capitalist countries have built nuclear energy plants with a U.S. patent, and scientists in those nations "fear that the system in their plants does not have minimum safety measures to prevent such catastrophes." Reloj then reports without comment that President Carter visited the plant and that he mentioned a possible evacuation.

VENCEREMOS BRIGADE ARRIVES FROM UNITED STATES

FL031651 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Apr 79 FL

[Text] The second group of the 11th Venceremos Brigade contingent has arrived in this capital through the Jose Marti Airport. Arriving on the flight were 61 members of the brigade who, along with the 72 who arrived earlier, will be in Cuba through 6 May. The 133 young people will be doing volunteer work in building the Ariguanabo community for 18 days and will afterwards tour centers of political, historical and recreational interest in the country.

The Venceremos Brigade is made up of North American young people, workers, students and intellectuals who sympathize with the Cuban Revolution. They travel annually to our country to do volunteer work as a demonstration of solidarity with a cause they believe is just.

PEDRO MIRET ATTENDS ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS

FL031149 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Pedro Miret Prieto, member of the PCC Politburo, was a guest in Rome of the Italian Communist Party [PCI] Salary Section. Miret Prieto, who is our PCC delegate to the 15th PCI Congress, was received at the site with applause and a bouquet of flowers.

The opening remarks at the fraternal meeting were made by the secretary of the section, (Ennio Santini), who pointed out the appreciation and support for the Cuban revolutionary process shown by his collective.

For his party, Miret recounted the struggle waged by the Cuban revolutionaries and the social and economic problems that afflicted the country before the triumph of the revolution. He cited figures on social and economic achievements made, especially those in the area of public health. He also spoke of the Cuban people's internationalist attitude, which he reminded is not accidental but rather a tradition. In this regard, he metnioned men from Latin America and Europe who participated in the struggle for liberation in the past century.

Later on, Miret was presented with a collection of books by Italian Communist leader (Antonio Granchi), and he was toasted with wine harvested by some of those present and sweets made by employees of this section. A chorus sang Italian and Cuban communist songs, ending with a ballad on the heroic guerrilla Maj Che Guevara.

PEREZ MEETS WITH ROMANIA'S CEAUSESCU IN BUCHAREST

FL031716 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Bucharest--Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu today received Humberto Perez, vice president of the Council of Ministers and President of the Cuban Central Planning Board. Participating in the meeting were Nicolae Constantin, deputy prime minister of the Romanian Government and chairman of the State Planning Committee, and Humberto Castello, Cuban ambassador in Bucharest.

Ceausescu pointed out the developments achieved as a result of Romanian and Cuban relations, and he called for their intensification and expansion. In addition, Ceausescu and Humberto Perez stressed the importance of coordinating economic plans between the two countries for the 1981-85 5-year period to intensify Cuban-Romanian cooperation in many areas. The meeting also dealt with various aspects of Cuban-Romanian relations and other current international topics.

Shortly after the meeting between the Romanian president and the Cuban vice president of the Council of Ministers, the Cuban Embassy hosted a cocktail party on the occasion of the visit to Romania by the delegation headed by Humberto Perez. Among those attending were Nicolae Constantin, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Romanian State Planning Committee, and other officials from the Romanian Foreign Ministry and Communist Party.

Humberto Perez has been in Romania since Sunday, 1 April, heading a delegation which is discussing coordination of economic plans with the Romanian side for the upcoming 5-year period, and other bilateral topics.

HAVANA RADIO INTERVIEWS VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR

FL032343 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Nguyen Huu Ngo, Socialist Republic of Vietnam's ambassador to Cuba, today granted an exclusive interview for this newscast in which he discusses the current situation in his country and analyzes the conflict created by the Beijing clique. We now offer excerpts of the interview made by our reporter Roberto Nachar:

[Question] What is the current situation in the Vietnamese territories that were the object of the Chinese invasion?

[Answer] Since the 17 February attack, the Chinese aggressor troops have acted in an extremely savage manner, committing innumerable crimes against the people of Vietnam. They fired indiscriminately, destroyed villages and towns and looted them and assassinated women, old people and children in a highly cruel manner.

Nguyen Huu Ngo outlined Chinese actions against the Vietnamese people pointing out that more than 1 million persons had to be evacuated from the six border provinces before the Maoist aggression.

[Question] What does Cuba mean to Vietnam?

[Answer] The Vietnamese people are proud to count on the fraternal people of Cuba as comrades-in-arms and the Cuban people offer us valuable feelings of proletarian internationalism. The Cuban people support and help us wholeheartedly, and they always are willing to give even their own blood for Vietnam. I want to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Vietnamese people, our sincere and warm gratitude to the Cuban people, Communist Party and government headed by esteemed Comrade Fidel Castro.

[Question] What is the Vietnamese Government position with regard to the aggressors?

[Answer] The position of the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is that China must definitely end its aggression; immediately, totally and unconditionally withdraw its troops to the other side of the historic border which both sides agreed to respect; and strictly respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Vietnam.

[Question] What is your opinion of the forthcoming summit conference of the nonalined countries that will be held in Havana in September?

[Answer] It is of special importance. It is obvious that the nonalined countries movement is playing an increasingly more active role in today's world. The holding of the summit in Havana demonstrates Cuba's prestige and, at the same time, reflects the trend toward increasingly stronger solidarity among the forces that are struggling for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress. I believe that the sixth summit conference of the nonalined countries will be a good opportunity for its members to strengthen their unity once again and intensify the struggle for the high objectives of the movement. I am convinced that the summit conference will be a success.

GUZMAN CALLS ENERGY SITUATION 'EXTREMELY DIFFICULT'

FL032231 Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 3 Apr 79 FL

[Text] President Antonio Guzman Fernandez today insisted at the ninth general convention of the Latin American Association of Financial Institutions for Development--ALIDE--that the national energy situation is extremely difficult. In his opening remarks at the convention, Guzman Fernandez said he did not want to express regret or complaints but to recognize the difficulties as the first step toward the search for solutions.

He said the oil price hike is not what this country wants, is out of its control and makes the national future gloomy. The systematic rise in oil prices, he added, is a heavy burden on our foreign trade. The chief executive said this situation is more complex and ominous for this country because of the prices for our traditional export products. We are working for the present and future and this means that in the face of difficulties we will seek the most appropriate solutions, President Guzman Fernandez added. At the same time, the president called for austerity in handling and using resources saying this is a decisive, creative and bold initiative.

VISITING COSTA RICAN VICE PRESIDENT HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE

PA030343 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Costa Rican Vice President Rodrigo Altmann Ortiz today criticized the price hike policy decreed by OPEC and described as excessive the oil countries' desire to continue increasing the price of crude.

In a news conference held here, Altmann urged that the initiative taken recently in Venezuela by several Latin American presidents to hold a summit meeting to discuss the impact of the oil crisis should not be lost. Altmann added that this initiative should be maintained whether the meeting is held in Santo Domingo, (?Ciudad Juares) or any other capital on the continent, because oil inflation is creating internal situations that border on national crises. The Costa Rican vice president called on the Latin American people to support their governments during these difficult times when they have to adopt unpopular measures as a result of the oil crisis.

Altmann said that Costa Rica has taken a number of internal measures to force the people to conserve fuel, but these measures will be useless if the OPEC countries continue to raise the price of crude excessively. However, the vice president said that the new Venezuelan president had offered to freeze oil prices for Costa Rica at the OPEC level.

On the other hand, Altmann said that he had urged Dominican President Antonio Guzman to have the Dominican Republic join the Caribbean multinational shipping enterprise, NAMUCAR, saying that this is a positive project for the integration of the Caribbean region.

The Costa Rican vice president said that the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica should seek ways of having their economies complement each other, even though their economies are similar, because the two countries produce the same things. However, he noted, tourism is a good area in which to achieve this, and he proposed an operational agreement between the two national airlines.

Regarding relations with Nicaragua, Altmann said that Costa Rica will not tolerate aggression from across the border or permit Sandinist groups to use Costa Rican territory for launching provocative actions against the Somoza government.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY VOIDS EXPULSIONS, DISMISSALS

FL311318 Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 31 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] has voided all suspensions, expulsions and dismissals of party officials that were made in recent years. A note signed by the PRD Executive Committee and Salvodor Jorge Blanco and Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, party chairman and secretary general, respectively, explains that the action is aimed at preserving the indestructible unity of the party. From now on, any expulsion or dismissal will not take effect unless reported to and approved and announced by the Political Committee, concludes the note of the high PRD committee. The note was released through the PRD official organ Tribuna Democratica. [a radio program]

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY FUNDING SANDINIST STRUGGLE

PA302317 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2234 GMT 30 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 30 Mar (LATIN)--Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] Secretary General Jose Francisco Pena Gomez confirmed today that the official party donated funds for the struggle against Anastasio Somoza's regime.

Pena Gomez said that the funds, some 50,000 pesos (on par with the dollar) were obtained through popular donations and the presentation of shows. He said that the PRD intends to organize another series of shows and popular collections in order to obtain more funds for the Sandinist National Liberation Front, whose political spokesman is Father Ernesto Cardenal.

Cardenal was in Santo Domingo during the last week of November, invited by the PRD to attend the solidarity with Nicaragua week. On this occasion, Cardenal visited several cities in order to appeal for the solidarity of the Dominican people with the struggle to overthrow Somoza, whom he described as "genocidal" and "a war criminal."

Pena Gomez explained that these funds were not issued by the government, which had nothing to do with collection.

POLICE PROTECT RADIO STATIONS AGAINST HAITIAN EXILES

PA031342 Paris AFP in Spanish 2357 GMT 2 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 2 Apr (AFP)--Six radio stations located in the country's southwest are being watched by national police agents in view of charges that Haitian exiles might occupy them in order to air slogans against Jean-Claude Duvalier's regime. The stations under police protection are Radio Barahona and Radio Guarocuya, located in Barahona; Radio Neyba in Neyba; Radio Jimani in Jimani; Radio Pedernales in Pedernales; Radio Enriquillo in Tamayo; and Radio Monte Rio in Azua. All these stations are easily heard in Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital and in other cities.

According to reports from towns located in the country's southwest, police agents are allowing only announcers to enter the stations. Police started their vigilance at dawn today.

GRENADA

BISHOP ANNOUNCES NEW SUPREME COURT, OTHER ACTIONS

FL021855 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Mar 79 p 1 FL

[Excerpts] Saint Georges, Tues. The peoples revolutionary government here has established the Supreme Court of Grenada, thereby repealing the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court of Grenada Act 1971. Prime Minister Maurice Bishop said this action was to remove the threats of hostility being posed by neighbouring states which "seem anxious with their threats of removal of the regional court to try to interrupt the flow of administration of our judicial system and the administration of justice within our country."

Mr Bishop made the announcement at a mass rally here when he announced also that a people's consultative assembly would be set up to draft a new constitution for the island. He said that the old constitution has been suspended from March 13, the day on which his New Jewel Movement [NJM] wrestled power from the Eric Gairy regime.

He declared that effective March 13 the "peoples revolutionary government (PRG) is hereby established...in accordance with the sovereign way of the Grenada people and in it shall be vested all executive and legislative power, and the PRG shall also appoint a prime minister.

Mr Bishop said the jurisdiction of the magistrates' court would be extended to cover all acts of violence against state property, essential services and breaches of the financial laws and regulations. The maximum penalty on conviction in each case shall be five years hard labour.

Members of the people's revolutionary army, [PRA] which he declared was now established, will be subjected to and controlled by the Grenada Military Force Act "to the extent that that act shall reasonably or appropriately apply." This means that the legality for the existence of the PRA will be from now on found within the framework of the Grenada Military Force Act of 1976, and that is what will ensure condition of service, conditions of discipline, conditions of control and efficiency, the new prime minister said. Members of the PRA shall have the same power of arrest and search as are vested in the members of the Grenada police force.

A preventative detention tribunal will be established consisting of not less than three persons appointed by the people's revolutionary government to review cases of former Grenada ministers and supporters now being held in jail, Bishop said.

The crowd of several hundred raised three cheers to the revolution that brought 34-year-old NJM leader to power. Posters put up around Saint Johns carrying Bishop's picture declare "all power to the Grenada revolution," and that democracy and socialism will triumph over tyranny and repression.

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL COMMENTS ON GRENADA, CARIBBEAN

Unity, Human Rights

FL282059 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 28 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Commonwealth Secretary General Sonny Ramphal says the recent overthrow of the Gairy dictatorship in Grenada was a clear indication of the dilemma of microstates.

In addition, he said, it also emphasized the need for real political unity in the Caribbean.

Mr Ramphal, who was speaking to pressmen in Barbados today, urged regional leaders to forcefully speak up against abuses of human rights such as those which had resulted in the March 13th revolution [in Grenada].

Mr Ramphal spoke of an increasing international awareness that the world was becoming a kind of global village in which everyone is the other person's neighbor. And he said that seen in this context, the Caribbean islands were making a future founded on fragmentation.

He went on to declare that the major problem in the region's quest for unity was the chronic shortage of political will to do things.

Mr Ramphal leaves Barbados for Guyana this evening for general discussions with Prime Minister Forbes Burnham.

Help for Grenada

FL021900 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 29 Mar 79 p 1 FL

[Excerpts] The new revolutionary government in Grenada is to get assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat. Mr Shridath ("Sonny") Ramphal, the secretary general of the Commonwealth, said at a press conference yesterday.

He said that he has held discussions with Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, whose revolutionary government toppled Sir Eric Gairy on March 13, and that he had told Mr Bishop that the resource facilities and help of the Secretariat were available to the government and people of Grenada.

Dealing with the Grenada situation, Mr Ramphal wondered "if the true lesson of this event and what went before it (in the Caribbean) isn't the inherent fragility of tiny microstates, the intrinsic weakness of the structure which invites instability." He also wondered if the development in Grenada "doesn't invite us all to reexamine where we are going. Where we are going in a world that even among very large countries...is reaching out to larger conglomerates at the level of the nations.

Mr Ramphal said that he would be the last to advocate the meddling in internal affairs "but it equally must be the case that where violations of human dignity, violations of the basic rights of men are violated and abused, trampled, that all men of goodwill must have the right to speak out in condemnation."

The mood in Grenada among the people was that there was now a chance for the country to move forward.

"This would surely be the time for all the friends of Grenada in the region and in the Commonwealth to respond to that urging and to the extent that it is in our power through technical assistance and otherwise, I would certainly be putting the resources of the Secretariat at the disposal of our member states," he said.

Mr Ramphal also called for understanding for the position of the smaller Caribbean states as in the future Grenada might become the easy case for the Caribbean and it might not be the "bad" guys who are being overthrown.

JAMAICA

MANLEY DISCUSSES MOSCOW TRIP, ECONOMIC MATTERS

FL302120 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Mar 79 p 17 FL

[Text] People's National Party President Prime Minister Michael Manley told party supporters on Thursday night that he would be going to Moscow on April 9 "in a spirit of courtesy and friendship, just as I go to Washington in a spirit of courtesy and friendship."

He told the supporters at the mass meeting at the statue of national hero N.W. Manley that he was going to the Soviet Union on behalf of the people of this country "to make more amicable" the good relationship which already exists between them and the people of the Soviet Union. Mr Manley said that he was going to the Soviet Union to seek to establish economic relationship between that country and Jamaica. While there, he would seek also to identify those areas "where we share common political sympathies in world affairs." These areas were likely to include developments in southern Africa and detente.

Pressure Zone

The prime minister, who also reported to his followers on various aspects of the economy, said a major area of pressure affecting the government was the "crawling-peg devaluation." It was the government's view, he said, that "our exports are competitive now," and that the crawling-peg devaluation should cease. He told his hearers: "One of the things we are going to struggle for is to stop the crawling peg as a feature of the next agreement with the International Monetary Fund, because we believe that our exports are now competitive." It was vital, however, Mr Manley continued, that Jamaican exports remained competitive both in the areas of manufacture, in tourism and in other items. He stressed the need for greater efficiency in the performance of workers and managers. He said that part of the reason for the local economic crisis was the considerable rise in the prices of things abroad. "We can't control overseas prices and have found ourselves in the position where we just have to pay whatever they charge. In these circumstances, he said, greater and more efficient production were the two things that Jamaica would have to achieve in order to survive. He enjoined all workers across Jamaica to work harder in order to overcome the economic crisis and to ensure that goods produced for export remained competitive.

A report on the situation in Grenada was presented to the meeting by Dr Paul Robertson, deputy general secretary of the PNP, who visited Grenada earlier this week.

The meeting was also addressed by National Security Minister the Hon Dudley Thompson.

MANLEY RESPONDS TO DAILY GLEANER CRITICISM

FL021930 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Mar 79 pp 1, 23 FL

[GLEANER political reporter]

[Text] Prime Minister Michael Manley has charged that the GLEANER's page one editorial of Wednesday, March 28, titled "Communism, No " is "written with clear malice and vicious intent and, in sections, its arguments are based on a lie," about communists being in the Cabinet.

In a statement introducing the principles and objectives of the People's National Party [PNP] issued at a press conference at the PNP's Hope Road headquarters yesterday, the prime minister took time out to comment on the GLEANER editorial. Mr Manley said:

"I could not end this statement without commenting on recent propaganda attacks against the People's National Party and the government. You will note that yesterday's GLEANER editorial and other similar propaganda attacks have been orchestrated to coincide with the announcement of my upcoming visit to the Soviet Union.

PNP's Aims

"I want to state clearly again that our party is committed to work towards economic independence and in that context, the establishment of principled relations with socialist countries. The goal of economic independence cannot be pursued effectively unless we work to broaden and diversify our economic relations with the rest of the world. While in the Soviet Union, we will be seeking to explore reciprocal opportunities for trade and economic cooperation that can be of mutual benefit.

"The Soviet Union trades in convertible currency but insists on the development of trade along balanced lines so that neither side builds up unbalanced advantages over the other. Therefore, we will be negotiating seriously and carefully with them within that framework.

"Now, on the last Tuesday morning of each month I meet with leaders of the private sector to discuss production and exports. This week we had a full and frank discussion of the trade prospects of the visit to the Soviet Union. On Friday, tomorrow, the trade administrator meets the private sector leaders to ensure that the things we discuss in Moscow concerning trade take private sector needs for things like raw materials, machinery and equipment into account.

In the meantime, the goal of nonalignment cannot be achieved by the pursuit of isolation. What it means is the search for a basis of understanding in political matters across the widest political spectrum with which it is possible to develop a principled relationship on a basis of respect for sovereignty. Naturally, this excludes Fascism, with which it is impossible to have a principled relationship because of its nature.

Pure Lies

"I am now going to speak specifically to the hysterical outburst which passed for a page one editorial in the GLEANER yesterday. The editorial is written with clear malice and vicious intent. I say so because in several sections its arguments are based on a lie. What is more, the editor at the GLEANER know that these are lies. I will illustrate with one particularly glaring example. They say that I have or had communists in my Cabinet and was too weak to deal with them.

"Every single member of the Cabinet since 1976 played a full part in the development of the policy which I am presenting today. Every single member of the Cabinet voted for this document. The document is clearly not a communist one by any stretch of the imagination, and yet in the face of those facts the GLEANER invests communists in the Cabinet so that they can confuse the public and hopefully hurt the government.

"The GLEANER's attitudes towards politics belong in the stone age. They represent the same sort of prehistoric caveman view of the world which led to that tragic episode in American history known as the McCarthy era.

"The leader of the GLEANER are apparently unaware of the fact that the McCarthy era in the United States came to an end before the end of the 1950's.

Confusion

"Clearly, this is a leopard which will never change its rather out of date spots. However, we are consoled by the fact that the deeds of men like Bogle, Garvey, Norman Manley have outlived the tricks and machinations of this same GLEANER that today attempts once more to confuse the people.

"The document that we present today does not speak to the manipulators who run the GLEANER. It does speak constructively and creatively to the workers, the farmers, the students, the professionals, the patriotic businessmen, the housewives and the unemployed who share a commitment to the struggle to build a viable and just society in our native land.

The GLEANER's editorial had said:

"The president of the private sector organization of Jamaica has spoken for the vast majority of Jamaicans when he expressed the fear in a letter to the prime minister at the growing trend in the PNP government towards links with the Soviet-Cuban brand of world communism.

"Regrettably, Mr Manley has said or done nothing in recent months to remove or reduce that fear. On the contrary he appears to have forgotten his party's resolute stand against communism, his father's expulsion from the party in 1952 of a group of people whom he accused of spreading communism within the party, and his own declarations up to 1976 that his party was against communism.

"Under the guise of being nonaligned, Mr Manley has been strengthening Jamaica's ties to the Soviet-Cuban axis to such an extent that Jamaica now automatically follows the Soviet-Cuban line in world issues.

"A most recent example was his statement at the communist World Peace Council meeting on Friday, March 16, deriding the Chinese position in respect of Vietnam and echoing the Soviet-Cuban view on Cuban troops in Africa.

"Mr Manley has had nothing but praise and never loses an opportunity to defend this wanton piece of Soviet-Cuban expansionism in black Africa. Mr Manley never criticizes Cuban policies; for example, the existence of political prisoners in that dictatorship does not give him any pause as he intensifies the closer relationship policy with Cuba. Ethiopian savagery under the tutelage of Cuba escapes his attention, but he will condemn the savagery of Idi Amin or the presumed brutality of an Eric Gairy as it is safe to do so without incurring the wrath of his new masters in Moscow and Havana.

"Mr Manley, who once cried 'we are not for sale,' appears to be in the act of mortgaging us to Soviet-Cuban communist expansionism. Up to now we have been prepared to believe that he has been led into this by his vacillating and weakkneed attitude to the communists in his Cabinet, in his party, and to the communist groups who have captured the government media.

"But his defiant stance at the not very well attended mass meeting on Thursday night in response to the concerns of well-thinking members of his own party and in the country suggests that Mr Manley was truthful when he said he knew where he was going. We for our part will not follow him on the road towards colonial status under Soviet-Cuban communism. Neither will the majority of Jamaicans, Christian and non-Christian alike."